(c) Mismatch of infrastructure is one of the reason. However, bunching of flights during peak hours is the main reason for such situation.

(d) Steps taken to reduce congestion at Delhi airport *inter-alia* include construction of new high speed exit taxi-ways, a parallel taxi-track & additional parking stands; implementation of procedures for simultaneous use of both runways, ATC procedures and Dedicated Clearance Delivery Position; imposition of ban on general aviation aircraft during peak period; upgradation of ATC automation system and installation of Advanced Surface Movement Guidance & Control System.

Policy on pricing of tickets

2577. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to give domestic carriers a free hand in pricing tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this is a departure from the present norms whereby now the airlines have to get prior permission of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) before announcing new fares and schedules; and

(c) if so, the important details of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Both domestic and international carriers are already given free hand in pricing the tickets. After repeal of Air Corporation Act 1953 in 1994, the tariff in respect of airlines is not regulated by Government and it is upto the airlines to fix the tariff and related concessions as per their economic viability and market conditions. In so far as airlines schedule is concerned prior approval of Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is still required before implementing the new schedule.

Development of Khajuraho airport

†2578. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the land acquired so far for the development of Khajuraho airport;

(b) the latest position of development works on acquired land; and

(c) by when the development work would be completed?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) For the development of Khajuraho airport 355 acres (approx.) land has been acquired so far.

(b) and (c) Work of extension of runway from 6000 feet to 7500 feet has already been completed. Works relating to construction of new terminal building for 500 passengers and car park etc. are likely to be awarded by October, 2006 and the tentative date or completion is December, 2007.

New airport in Bodoland territory

2579. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has asked the State Government of Assam to move a proposal for a new airport likely to be set-up within the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD) of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether in near future such proposal will come up from the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) has requested the Central Government for establishment of an airport at Kokrajhar in Assam. The proposal is at preliminary stage.

Menu of Indian Airlines

2580. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the standard of food supply provided in the domestic flights of Indian Airlines in terms of quality, taste,and quantity in comparision to private airlines;

(b) whether the same kind of menu are supplied every time in the same sector leading to dislike and rejection by the passengers frequently and whether it cannot be changed periodically instead of continuing the same old menu for weeks and months together when the private airlines could do it; and